1862MNRAS..22..276.

"Si vous vouliez communiquer cette éphéméride aux astronomes Anglais qui pourraient s'y intéresser, vous m'obligeriez fort."

Further Note on the supposed Observation of an Intra-Mercurial Planet on the 12th of February, 1820.

Mr. Carrington has been favoured with the following letter from Dr. von Littrow, which he hastens to communicate a translation of, referring at the same time to the *Monthly Notices*, vol. xx. p. 194.

"*Vienna, April 13th*, 1862.

"A fortunate chance has, at length, led me to-day to a source whence I have obtained further information respecting the observation of Steinheibel.

"In the Vienna *Times* of April 27th, 1820, there is to be found the following notice, communicated probably by my father:—

"'Mr. Steinheibel, who for the last four years has daily observed the Sun and recorded his spots and faculæ with care in a diary, on February 12th (1820), at $10^h 45^m$ in the morning, observed a spot, which was distinguished from all the rest by its well-defined circular form, by its equally circular atmosphere, by its orange-red colour, and especially by its unusual motion, completing the diameter of the Sun in nearly five hours. As he made this interesting observation during a country excursion, it was impossible to have recourse to instruments or to communicate the phenomenon early enough to others; yet he is ready to answer fully every question put to him about this occurrence. It is very possible that a planet might be discovered in this way, having its orbit within that of *Mercury*; and should the zeal with which Mr. Steinheibel has pursued this class of observations for a series of years, be rewarded by such a happy result, and lead him to publish his observations on the Sun, they would not be without interest for the public.'

"I have in a former letter incorrectly written the name 'Steinheibel,' according to Olbers, 'Steinhübel.' He lived for some time as Abbé at Vienna, and subsequently at Kremsmünster; at both of which places he occupied himself continuously with observations of the Sun. The above observation of his is given so differently to that of Starke, that I should consider it independent of the latter."

Mr. Lassell writes to correct an error (p. 164 of the *Monthly Notices*), where it is stated that the new star discovered by him within the trapezium of the great nebula of

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1862MNRAS..22..278D

Orion "appears to be about a full magnitude less than that known as 'the sixth star;' and is about one-sixteenth of its distance from *Theta.*" Mr. Lassell's note at the time in his journal states "about five-eighths of the distance of the sixth star from *Theta.*" On referring to his original communication, it appears that the distance there mentioned was *six-tenths*, which was inadvertently printed as *one-sixteenth.*

On the Missing Nebula in Coma Berenices. By M. Chacornac.

(*Extract of a Letter to Sir J. Herschel, dated Paris, 22d May,* 1862.)

"Permettez moi de vous adresser quelques renseignements sur la nébuleuse variable dont vous annoncez la disparition dans le No. 6 du xxii^{me} volume des *Monthly Notice.*

"Le 19 Avril dernier, ayant dirigé le grand téléscope de M. Foucault sur la région du ciel environnant l'étoile (6) de la constellation de la chevelure de *Bérénice*, dans le but d'étudier la structure des nébuleuses qui s'y trouvent condensées; j'y remarquai une nébuleuse double dont l'une des deux composantes avait un éclat bien plus faible que l'autre, ce qu'il était facile d'apprécier par leur visibilité dans le même champ de vue.

"En dirigeant de nouveau le même instrument sur le lieu que vous désignez, j'ai reconnu que les trois nébuleuses cataloguées se trouvent à peu près à leur place respective que vous indiquez. Les deux objets (A) et (B) sont bien de première classe et une étoile de dixième à onzième grandeur précède bien la nébuleuse (B) de 24^s, mais je trouverais une différence d'ascension droite moins grande entre ces deux objets, c'est à dire:—

$$\text{R.A. (B)} - \text{R.A. (A)} = 13^{s} \cdot 5.$$

"La troisième nébuleuse peu éloignée de (B) est bien celle que j'ai aperçue le 19 Avril; elle répond assez bien aux différences que vous annoncez mais elle brille d'un faible éclat. Sa constitution analogue à celle de (B) m'a permis de comparer son intensité lumineuse à celle de cette nébuleuse au moyen d'un micromètre à double image appliqué au téléscope; j'ai trouvé ainsi la lumière du compagnon quatre fois plus faible que celle de la nébuleuse principale (B)."

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